

NSC BRIEFING

4 OCTOBER 1955

INDONESIAN ELECTIONS

I. In unofficial count of ballots from young nation's first elections, the leftist National Party (PNI) continues to maintain substantial lead (6.3 million, or approx 29% of votes thusfar counted).

A. Next biggest poller is unexpectedly strong NU (Nahdlatul Ulama: "Moslem Scholars") with 5 million (23%).

B. Communists (PKI) are next, with 4.8 million (22%).

C. Among major parties, the pro-US Masjumi is fourth, with 4.6 million (21%).

D. Approx 2 million votes (or 5%) are scattered among minor parties.

II. Most of vote counted thusfar is from Java, where 69% of Indonesia's electorate is located.

A. Most of the eight to ten million votes as yet uncounted were polled in non-Javanese areas.

B. Approx 10% of electorate has not yet voted, either because of incomplete preparations or due to local dissidence. These areas must vote by 29 November or be bypassed.

III. Under Indonesia's system of proportional representation, seats will be granted to various parties according to percentage of popular vote received.

3
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- A. Actual allocation of seats probably will be deferred until all areas have voted, and all votes counted
- B. Present prime minister (a Masjumi man) has stated his cabinet will continue in office until new parliament seated.
- C. He probably is counting on minimum of two to three months more, and has mentioned as much as six months.

IV. Triumphant National Party leaders have demanded that Sukarno request Masjumi coalition cabinet's resignation.

- A. Establishment of new "caretaker" cabinet is a possibility.
- B. PNI will probably continue to press for such a change in order to get hand into mid-Dec elections (for constituent assembly).
- C. First hint regarding makeup of next government--whether formed before or after seating of new parliament--seen in comment by pro-PNI newspaper, Merdeka (frequently a party mouthpiece).
 - 1. Merdeka commented that PNI should explore possibility of resuming cooperation with Masjumi.
- D. NU may be key to future orientation of Indonesian government.
 - 1. However, past record of NU cooperation in both PNI- and Masjumi-led governments leaves its course unpredictable.